

To: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Barry, Michael
Sent: Thur 10/1/2015 8:19:29 PM
Subject: Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee hearing

Nancy, I thought you might be interested in this.

Mike

ALCON,

Durango IC, SITL and ICP PIO/LNO Coord had the time to watch this hearing. FYI my impression & take-aways

Subject was the economic impacts of the GKMR upon Silverton and Durango area businesses. Was hosted by Sen Gardner, R-CO. Opening testimony by Rep Scott Tipton, R-CO and Sen. Bennett, D-CO

Testimony by:

Brad Blake, La Plata Cty Commissioner, District 1, Western La Plata County

DeAnne Gallego, Executive Director, Silverton, CO Chamber of Commerce

Andy Corra, Owner of 4Corner Riversports, Durango, CO

Common Take-Away concerns all 3 verbalized:

- Make claims process quick, easy and fast for claimants
- Need a long term solution for contaminant loading in the river system
- Want to work with EPA, be involved and full partner part of the process
- Want EPA engagement at a local level by consistent personnel who are empowered to make decisions, or can get decisions back quickly.

The US Rep Tipton doesn't want the stigma of a superfund site.

Testimony of Andy Corra, 4Corner Riversports owner was positive to EPA, several messages from him:

- Wants an NPL site, that is the program for a long term solution that will provide enough resources; cited Moab as an example of a locale with a Superfund site that is thriving
- Stated the GKMR was very small compared to the annual contaminant loading that has gone on for decades; also noted locals routinely see orange staining along river
- Commiserated with the removal programs efforts to date; stated that the program personnel have been attempting to "fight a fire with a garden hose" Note-he was NOT being critical of the removal program; his point was that he felt the program has been doing what it could, but it's not the right program.

Testimony of DeAnne Gallegos:

- Raised concerns about impact of Superfund designation on ability of Silverton residence to secure mortgages for new and existing homes while at the same time acknowledging that eco-tourism is the major source of revenue in the Town.
- Noted several times that Silverton needs to work together with EPA to address environmental impacts of historical mining operations in the area.

Testimony of Brad Blake, La Plata County Commissioner:

- Not overly critical of EPA but claimed numerous businesses in the area suffered significant economic losses due to mine release
- Focused more on the alleged impacts of the release than on the legacy of abandoned mines but was not overly hostile or aggressive

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9/24 – 10/7/2015:

Incident Commander

Gold King Mine Response

Durango, CO

Permanent:

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